
Foreword

Different media types have converged under the realm of multimedia, or simply media. Consequently, modern media systems are expected to handle all possible media types and formats seamlessly and efficiently, taking into account not only the means of transmission and presentation but also the tastes and preferences of the user. Combined with the emergence of advanced network infrastructures which enable fast and reliable storage and retrieval and end-to-end transmission of large volumes of multimedia content and the development of a plethora of terminal devices for media presentation, has lead to immense opportunities for media content and service development and provision.

Although systems succeed in considering and adapting to diverse networking infrastructures and terminal devices, not enough consideration is granted to the user. Although presentation preferences, such as video quality, can be addressed by techniques as simple as low level content adaptation, users' preferences at a semantic level are more difficult to understand, model and satisfy. The realization of notions of context and contextualization at a semantic level is expected to aid significantly in this area.

Realizing the growing importance of semantic adaptation and personalization of media, the editors of this book decided in the summer of 2006 to bring together researchers and practitioners of the field to discuss the state of the art and explore emerging exciting developments. The meeting that took place in Athens in December 2006, the first International Workshop on Semantic Media Adaptation and Personalization (SMAP 2006), managed to trigger an unexpected amount of interest: 42 high quality submissions were received from 20 countries across Europe, North America and Asia. The quality of the workshop submissions was so high that the organizers were compelled to seek further means of dissemination. This volume comprises extended versions of selected papers presented at the workshop. Two rounds of reviews have assured the quality and depth of analysis of all the chapters.

Following the success of the first event, the SMAP initiative looks forward to a second event, this time in London during December 2007 and will feature, additionally to the main workshop, a Doctoral Consortium for

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Ph.D. candidates specializing in the field. As with SMAP 2006, SMAP 2007 will be supported by the IEEE Computer Society, which publishes the proceedings of the Workshop, the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society, the IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society and the IEEE-SMC Technical Committee on Intelligent Internet Systems, which provide technical sponsorship and, importantly, the community from which a great deal of the SMAP participants are drawn.

In life you can only do this much without help from others. Thus, the editors of this book and founders of the SMAP initiative and workshop series would like to express their gratitude to many people for their help and support. Unable to list all here, we would like to thank Nicoletta Georgiou from the University of Indianapolis Athens, Stefanos Kollias and Marios Phinikettos from the National Technical University of Athens, John Lee from the IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society TC on Intelligent Internet Systems and Gary Greenwood from IEEE Computational Intelligence Society. Our thanks also go to our students who volunteered to help during the event and last, but certainly not least, to all those who embraced the SMAP initiative and help in its growth.

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